Directors on its Board hastily to pay Rs. 707 crores to the National Housing Bank NHB in the recent securities scam;

(b) if so, whether the State Bank of India is now contesting the claim of the NHB and has even decided to go to court in this matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ANZ Grindlays Bank has refused to pay in a similar situation; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) State Bank of India has reported that it has initiated action to file a claim on the assets of Shri Harshad S. Mehta under the provisions of Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Ordinance, 1992 for recovery of the amount.

(c) In compliance with the Reserve Bank of India directive, the ANZ Grindlays Bank has made a provision of Rs. 506 crores in their books, without prejudice to their legal rights and contentions. However the payment to NHB has not yet been made.

(d) This is a matter for Reserve Bank of India to take necessary action.

Modernisation of aviation facilities in Gujarat

*390. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of projects which are under operation in Gujarat for the modernisation of aviation facilities and airport during the last three years;

(b) whether the work on these projects is proceeding systematically; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The extension of runway to 9000' and construction of a separate terminal block at Ahamedabad airport in Gujarat has been completed during the last three years. The installation of speech switching system at this airport is in progress.

These works have been executed as per schedule during the last three years.

येल्हान्का कर्नाटक में डीजल विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजना का निर्माण

*391. **डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :**
श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :

क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि येलहान्का कर्नाटक संयुक्त क्षेत्र में 120 मेगावाट क्षमता की एक डीजल विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजना लगाए जाने का निर्णय लिया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रारम्भ में इस परियोजना की लागत कितनी आंकी गई थी, और इसे कब तक पूरा किया जाना था;

(ग) इससे पैदा होने वाली बिजली पर अनुमानत: कितनी लागत आनी थी :

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इस परियोजना के समय पर पूर्ण न होने के कारण इसकी लागत बढ़ गई है और इसके परिणामस्वरूप उत्पादन लागत में भी वृद्धि हो जाने की सम्भावना है ;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में वास्तविक स्थिति क्या है, और

(च) क्या यह भी सच है कि लागत में वृद्धि हो जाने के कारण यह परियोजना अलाभकारी बन गई है ?

विद्युत मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्पनाथ राय) : (क) कर्नाटक बिजली बोर्ड द्वारा येलहान्का में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में 120 मे०वा० (620 मे०वा०)

की एक डीज़ इंजिन विद्युत परियोजना स्थापित की जा रही है।

(ख) दिसम्बर, 1988 में योजना आयोग द्वारा इस परियोजना के सम्बन्ध में निवेश सम्बन्धी अनुमोदन प्रदान करते समय इस पर 122.03 करोड़ रुपए की लागत आने का अनुमान लगाया गया था। प्रथम यूनिट को जून, 1990 में तथा छठवीं यूनिट को दिसम्बर, 1990 में चालू किए जाने की परिकल्पना की गई थी।

(ग) विद्युत उत्पादन सम्बन्धी लागत 1.07 रुपये प्रति यूनिट होने का अनुमान लगाया गया था।

(घ) से (च) परियोजना के सम्बन्ध में तकनीकी-आर्थिक स्वीकृति प्रदान किए जाने के सन्दर्भ में परियोजना प्राधिकारियों द्वारा संशोधित लागत अनुमान अभी केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण को प्रस्तुत नहीं किए गए हैं। तथापि, कर्नाटक बिजली बोर्ड द्वारा अनुमान लगाया गया है कि अब परियोजना पर 293.72 करोड़ रुपए की लागत आएगी और प्रथम यूनिट को अक्तूबर, 1992 तक चालू किया जा सकेगा। इसके अलावा, कर्नाटक बिजली बोर्ड ने विद्युत उत्पादन सम्बन्धी लागत 2.10 रुपए प्रति यूनिट होने का भी अनुमान लगाया है जोकि उनके विचार में अलाभकारी नहीं है।

World Bank's opinion on foreign aid utilisation

*392. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 550 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th July, 1992 and state the World Bank's opinion on the country's foreign aid utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The World Bank has, in one of its recent reports on India, stated that over the 1980s, there has been a steady deterioration in India's utilisation of committed official assistance. However it has also noted the recent steps taken by Government of India to improve utilisation, including: (i) increased attention to up-front progress in the key areas of procurement, land acquisition, and clearances; (ii) greater use of adanvces from the central to the state governments; (iii) insistence on improved provisions for contract management and (iv) restructuring of existing projects and winding up of non-viable projects.

Lifting of tobacco by Russia from India

*393. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has agreed to lift 12500 metric tonnes of tobacco from India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Russia placed orders for 15,000 tonnes of tobacco in March, 1992, as against Trade Plan provision of 25,000 tonnes. Letters of Credit for an amount of US $25 million covering a quantity of 9600 tonnes of tobacco were opened in last week of June and 1st week of July, and the export of these 9600 tonnes is in progress. For the balance quantity of 5400 tonnes, Letters of Credit are likely to be opened shortly.

Problems of telephone subscribers in Allahabad

*394. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Allahabad telephone users having five digit telephone numbers hardly get connected with six digit telephone numbers;